

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of illuminating the area in front of a dog in dark conditions, eliminating the need for a dog owner to carry and direct a light source, comprising:
attaching to the neck of the dog a housing containing at least one light source, a battery power supply for said light source, and a switch connected between said light source and said power supply for energizing and de-energizing said light source, said housing being attached to the neck of said dog by a band from which said housing is suspended, so that said light source is located substantially below the snout of said dog, so as to minimize blockage of light by the dog's snout,

wherein said light source, when energized, is of sufficient brightness to illuminate the area in front of said dog so that said dog owner can observe the illuminated area for control purposes.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said light source comprises at least one light emitting diode.

3. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1 wherein~~ A method of illuminating the area in front of a dog in dark conditions, eliminating the need for a dog owner to carry and direct a light source, comprising:

attaching to the neck of the dog a housing containing at least one light source, a battery power supply for said light source, and a switch connected between said light source and said power supply for energizing and de-energizing said light source, said light source comprises three laterally spaced light emitting diodes, the two outboard diodes oriented to direct light forwardly past opposite sides of the dog's snout, and the central diode oriented to direct light forwardly and downwardly, wherein said light source, when energized, is of sufficient brightness to illuminate the area in front of said dog so that said dog owner can observe the illuminated area for control purposes.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said light source illuminates an area extending at least about 10 feet in front of the dog.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said light source illuminates an area extending at least about 20 feet in front of the dog.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said light source is a white light emitting diode.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said light source emits a light beam that has a width of at least about 5 feet at a distance of about 10 feet in front of said dog.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said housing is attached to the neck of said dog by an adjustable elastic band attached to said housing.

9. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein said band is located below a collar on said dog.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said housing is attached to said band in a manner that inhibits swinging movement of said housing.

12. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1 which includes~~ A method of illuminating the area in front of a dog in dark conditions, eliminating the need for a dog owner to carry and direct a light source, comprising:

attaching to the neck of the dog a band surrounding the neck of the dog, and attached to a connector having an upper end configured to fit over said band and a lower end forming a hinged connection to said a housing containing at least one light source, a battery power supply for said light source, and a switch connected between said light source and said power supply for energizing and de-energizing said light source,

wherein said light source, when energized, is of sufficient brightness to illuminate the area in front of said dog so that said dog owner can observe the illuminated area for control purposes.

13. (original) The method of claim 1 which includes a hair guard extending around at least a portion of said housing to prevent the hair of said dog from blocking said light source.

14. (currently amended) A dog flashlight for illuminating the area in front of a dog in dark conditions, eliminating the need for a dog owner to carry and direct a light source, comprising:

a housing containing at least one light source, a battery power supply for said light source, and a switch connected between said light source and said power supply for energizing and de-energizing said light source, and

an attachment device including a band for carrying said housing and adapted to surround the neck of the dog so that said housing is located in front of the chest of the dog, said housing

being suspended from said band so that said light source is located substantially below the snout of said dog, so as to minimize blockage of light by the dog's snout,

wherein said light source, when energized, is of sufficient brightness to illuminate the area in front of said dog so that said dog owner can observe the illuminated area for control purposes.

15. (original) The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said light source comprises at least one light emitting diode.

16. (currently amended) ~~The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein~~ A dog flashlight for illuminating the area in front of a dog in dark conditions, eliminating the need for a dog owner to carry and direct a light source, comprising:

a housing containing at least one light source, a battery power supply for said light source, and a switch connected between said light source and said power supply for energizing and de-energizing said light source, said light source comprises three laterally spaced light emitting diodes, the two outboard diodes oriented to direct light forwardly past opposite sides of the dog's snout, and the central diode oriented to direct light forwardly and downwardly, and an attachment device including a band for carrying said housing and adapted to surround the neck of the dog so that said housing is located in front of the chest of the dog,

wherein said light source, when energized, is of sufficient brightness to illuminate the area in front of said dog so that said dog owner can observe the illuminated area for control purposes.

17. (original) The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said light source illuminates an area extending at least about 10 feet in front of the dog.

18. (original) The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said light source illuminates an area extending at least about 20 feet in front of the dog.

19. (original) The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said light source is a white light emitting diode.

20. (original) The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said light source emits a light beam that has a width of at least about 5 feet at a distance of about 10 feet in front of said dog.

21. (original) The dog flashlight of claim 14 wherein said housing is attached to the neck of said dog by an adjustable elastic band attached to said housing.

22. (original) The dog flashlight of claim 21 wherein said band is located below a collar on said dog.

23. (canceled)

24. (original) The dog flashlight of claim 23 wherein said housing is attached to said band in a manner that inhibits swinging movement of said housing.

25. (currently amended) ~~The dog flashlight of claim 14 which includes~~ A dog flashlight for illuminating the area in front of a dog in dark conditions, eliminating the need for a dog owner to carry and direct a light source, comprising:

a housing containing at least one light source, a battery power supply for said light source, and a switch connected between said light source and said power supply for energizing and de-energizing said light source, and

an attachment device including a band for carrying said housing and adapted to surround the neck of the dog so that said housing is located in front of the chest of the dog,

wherein said light source, when energized, is of sufficient brightness to illuminate the area in front of said dog so that said dog owner can observe the illuminated area for control purposes, and

~~a band surrounding the neck of the dog,~~ a connector having an upper end configured to fit over said band and a lower end forming a hinged connection to said housing.

26. (original) The dog flashlight of claim 14 which includes a hair guard extending around at least a portion of said housing to prevent the hair of said dog from blocking said light source.

wherein said light source, when energized, is of sufficient brightness to illuminate the area in front of said dog so that said dog owner can observe the illuminated area for control purposes.

27. (new) A method of illuminating the area in front of a dog in dark conditions, eliminating the need for a dog owner to carry and direct a light source, comprising:

attaching to the neck of the dog a housing containing at least one light source, a battery power supply for said light source, and a switch connected between said light source and said power supply for energizing and de-energizing said light source, said housing being attached to the neck of said dog by a band surrounding the neck of the dog and connected to said housing by an attachment device having a first portion adapted to be attached to said band and a second portion attached to said housing, said first and second portions being pivotally connected to each other to permit adjustment of the elevation angle of the light beam emitted by said light source in said housing,

wherein said light source, when energized, is of sufficient brightness to illuminate the area in front of said dog so that said dog owner can observe the illuminated area for control purposes.

28. (new) A dog flashlight for illuminating the area in front of a dog in dark conditions, eliminating the need for a dog owner to carry and direct a light source, comprising: a housing containing at least one light source, a battery power supply for said light source, and a switch connected between said light source and said power supply for energizing and de-energizing said light source, and

an attachment device including a band for carrying said housing and adapted to surround the neck of the dog so that said housing is located in front of the chest of the dog, said attachment device having a first portion adapted to be attached to said band and a second portion attached to said housing, said first and second portions being pivotally connected to each other to permit adjustment of the elevation angle of the light beam emitted by said light source in said housing.

29. (new) A method of illuminating the area in front of a dog in dark conditions, eliminating the need for a dog owner to carry and direct a light source, comprising:

attaching to the neck of the dog a housing containing at least one light source, a battery power supply for said light source, and a switch connected between said light source and said power supply for energizing and de-energizing said light source, and

protecting said light source from being blocked by the hair of said dog,

wherein said light source, when energized, is of sufficient brightness to illuminate the area in front of said dog so that said dog owner can observe the illuminated area for control purposes.

30. (new) A dog flashlight for illuminating the area in front of a dog in dark conditions, eliminating the need for a dog owner to carry and direct a light source, comprising:

a housing containing at least one light source, a battery power supply for said light source, and a switch connected between said light source and said power supply for energizing and de-energizing said light source,

an attachment device including a band for carrying said housing and adapted to surround the neck of the dog so that said housing is located in front of the chest of the dog, and

a hair guard to prevent the hair of said dog from blocking said light source,

wherein said light source, when energized, is of sufficient brightness to illuminate the area in front of said dog so that said dog owner can observe the illuminated area for control purposes.